

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 286677

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:NEA:ARDA:Y:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S:STEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 286677

EXDIS FOR CHARGE FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING WITH SARKIS: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 8366

1. YOU SHOULD PLAN ON SEEING SARKIS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
DAYS FOR THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WITH HIM THE
EVOLVING SITUATION IN LEBANON, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH,
ALTHOUGH WE ALSO WANT YOU TO RESPOND TO CERTAIN OF SARKIS'
SUGGESTIONS MADE TO YOU IN YOUR LAST TALK WITH HIM.

2. FOLLOWING ARE YOUR BASIC TALKING POINTS:

-- THE SECRETARY ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS APPRECIATION FOR
THE THOUGHTFUL OBSERVATIONS YOU MADE IN MY MEETING WITH
YOU ON NOVEMBER 8. THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE DIFFICULT AND
DELICATE PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE OVERCOME AS THE ARAB DETER-
RENT FORCE CONSOLIDATES ITS OBJECTIVES, BUT WE HAVE BEEN
IMPRESSED WITH THE SUCCESSFUL WAY THIS FORCE UNDER YOUR

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DIRECTION HAS HANDLED MATTERS SO FAR.

-- YOU CAN ALSO BE ASSURED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO PLAY A SUPPORTIVE ROLE--AS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED--

AS YOU LATER TURN TO THE TASK OF DEVELOPING A POLITICAL CONSENSUS. THE UNITED STATES, AS YOU KNOW, SUPPORTED THE PRAGMATIC COMPROMISES DEVELOPED LAST JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FOR AN OVERALL POLITICAL SOLUTION. WE WOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE PREPARED TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE THE VARIOUS FACTIONS TO MOVE TOWARDS THE REASONABLE POLITICAL CONSENSUS WE PRESUME YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOP.

-- WE WILL OF COURSE REGULARLY RESTATE OUR POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE UNITY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, AS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED, WHENEVER AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION ARISES.

-- THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT IT CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN HELPING PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING THE PRESENT PROCESS IN LEBANON TO MOVE FORWARD UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP WITHOUT DISTRACTION.

-- OUR ABILITY TO BE HELPFUL WITH THE ISRAELIS IS INFLUENCED BY THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. A REINFORCED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER, AS WELL AS IN THE ARQUB AREA, WOULD PRESENT AN ISSUE OF OBVIOUS SENSITIVITY TO THE ISRAELIS. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THIS MATTER. WE ALSO HAVE TALKED TO SYRIAN LEADERS, MAKING CLEAR THAT FOR OUR PART WE HOPE THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IN THE BORDER AREAS WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE CEASE-FIRE OR GIVE ANY PARTY AN EXCUSE FOR OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

-- THE RECENT ROCKET ATTACK IN NAHARIYA POINTS UP THE POTENTIAL DANGERS IN THIS SITUATION. AS WE UNDERSTAND THE POSITION ON THE GROUND, THERE IS A NARROW ZONE ALONG MOST OF THE BORDER EXCEPT NEAR BINT JABRIL, THAT IS CONTROLLED BY CHRISTIAN-SHIA ELEMENTS. BEHIND THIS ZONE AND EXTENDING TO SIDON IS AN AREA UNDER NO FIRM CONTROL. WE ASSUME IT WAS FROM HERE THAT THE ATTACK ON NAHARIYA WAS
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MOUNTED. HOW DO YOU FORESEE BRINGING ORDER AND SECURITY TO THIS AREA? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF DEPLOYING A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE FORCE COMPOSED OF LEBANESE ELEMENTS TO PREVENT PALESTINIANS FROM OPERATING THERE?

-- WHATEVER IS DONE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE FULL UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, AND WE ARE PREPARED THROUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED

TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT YOU WILL
KEEP US INFORMED ON THIS SCORE. KISSINGER

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PAGE 01 STATE 286677 TOSEC 310068

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AEGRIFIN
APPROVED BY NEA/AEGRIFIN
S/S-DMACK
----- 126073

O 250308Z NOV 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 286677 TOSEC 310068

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT STATE 286677 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 23 NOV.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 286677

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UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE286677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:NEA:ARDAY:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760435-0075
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761122/aaaaasem.tel
Line Count: 245
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 8366
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEXT MEETING WITH SARKIS: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006